

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed December 21, 2004.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-24 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-52 of copending Application No. 09/760,512 (entitled “Recovering added precision from L-bit samples by dithering the samples prior to an averaging computation”).

Applicant requests the double patenting rejection be held in abeyance until the examiner has specified allowable claims in the application, at which time Applicant will consider the filing of a terminal disclaimer to overcome a double patenting rejection.

Rejections Under Section 102

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Deering et al., US 2002/0005854 (Patent Application No. 09/760,512), hereinafter referred to simply as Deering.

Claim 1 as amended recites:

A graphics system comprising:

a set of industry standard graphics cards, wherein each card comprises a rendering processor, an internal frame buffer, and a video data port; and

a series of filtering units, wherein each of the filtering units couples to a video data port of a corresponding one of the graphics cards, and wherein each of the graphics cards is configured to:

- (a) generate a stream of samples in response to received graphics primitives,
- (b) add a corresponding dither value to the color components of the samples to obtain dithered color components,

(c) buffer the dithered color components in the internal frame buffer, and
(d) forward truncated versions of the dithered color components to the corresponding filtering unit; and
wherein the filtering units are configured to perform a weighted averaging computation on the truncated dithered color components to determine pixel color components.

Deering neither teaches nor implies “a set of industry standard graphics cards, wherein each card comprises a rendering processor, an internal frame buffer, and a video data port; and a series of filtering units, wherein each of the filtering units couples to a video data port of a corresponding one of the graphics cards”. In fact, the words “industry”, “standard”, and “OEM” do not occur in Deering.

In addition, in support of dependent claims 6-8, 16-17, 24, and new claim 25 Applicant notes that Deering neither teaches nor implies “each of the filtering units is configured to support the weighted averaging computation by computing a partial sum of the data components corresponding to a subset of the samples falling in a filter support region, wherein the filtering units are configured to add the partial sums in a pipelined fashion” or “wherein a last of the filtering units in said series is configured to normalize a set of final cumulative sums resulting from said addition of the partial sums in a pipelined fashion”. In fact, the words “partial sum” do not occur in Deering.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 1 and its dependent claims are non-obvious and patentably distinguished over Deering for at least the reasons given above. Applicant also submits that the independent claims 10 and 18 contain limitations similar to claim 1, and therefore, claims 10 and 18 and their dependent claims are also non-obvious and patentably distinguished over Deering based on similar reasoning. Applicant further submits that the new independent claim 25 is patentably distinguished over Deering for at least the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

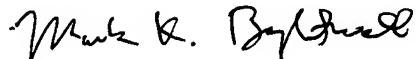
Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5681-59200/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,



Mark K. Brightwell
Reg. No. 47,446
AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
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